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david wise features for sat july 16, 1988
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It turned out this week that there are two George Bush's who worked for the CIA. No, this isn't the plot of the new Bette Midler movie, it's for real.

The better known George Bush is vice president of the United States and would like to occupy an even higher office. In 1976, he was director of the CIA.

A few days ago, an article in the Nation magazine based on an FBI document suggested that Bush might have secretly been a CIA spy twelve years earlier, in 1963, something that would be big news if true, because it never showed up on his resume. But it isn't true.

The FBI document is authentic. FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover sent it to the State Department in 1963, and it relates the reaction of Cuban exiles to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The document says that the FBI briefed "Mr. George Bush of the CIA" on the Cubans.

Stephen Hart, a spokesman for Vice President Bush told me: "The story has no foundation. The vice president was not employed by the CIA until he was director." Richard Helms, who was director of the CIA's clandestine side back in 1963 says he does not remember Vice President Bush working for him-- and he said he was sure he would recall something like that.

The CIA won't comment. But it was checking it's files all week, and by Friday it had found another George Bush who worked for the intelligence agency in 1963, and who had a job in which he would have received briefings from the FBI. The other George Bush no longer works for the CIA-- and he is not the Vice President of the United States.

This is David Wise, for CNN, in Washington.